

# **Status of Underprepared Students in Kentucky**

**Developmental Education Task Force  
August 8, 2006**



# Overview of Discussion Items

- Mandatory Placement Policy
- Underprepared Student Report (Nov, 2005)
- Strategic Initiatives
- Impact on 2020 Attainment Progress

# Mandatory Placement Policy

- 3 KAR 2:020. Guidelines for admission to state-supported postsecondary education institutions in Kentucky
  - Section 6. Assessment and Placement of Students required beginning Fall semester 2001
  - "System-wide standard" means a score of eighteen (18) or above on a mathematics, English, or reading subscale of the ACT Assessment
  - Universities can use institutional placement exams, as a supplement, for proper placement

# Mandatory Placement Policy

- 3 KAR 2:020.
  - Adult students without ACT or SAT scores may be placed using alternative national tests (ASSET, COMPASS, etc.) or an institutional placement test
  - Applies to first-time freshmen enrolled in certificate, diploma, associate or baccalaureate
  - Student scoring below the system-wide standard are typically placed in remedial course or entry-level course with supplemental support (such as extra call sessions, additional labs, tutoring and increased monitoring of students)

# Mandatory Placement Policy

- 3 KAR 2:020.
  - Beginning spring 2001 data monitoring performance of all first-time freshmen were required to be reported to the Council
  - Core data elements include ACT scores, remedial course identification, final grades in remedial and college entry-level courses for all first-year students

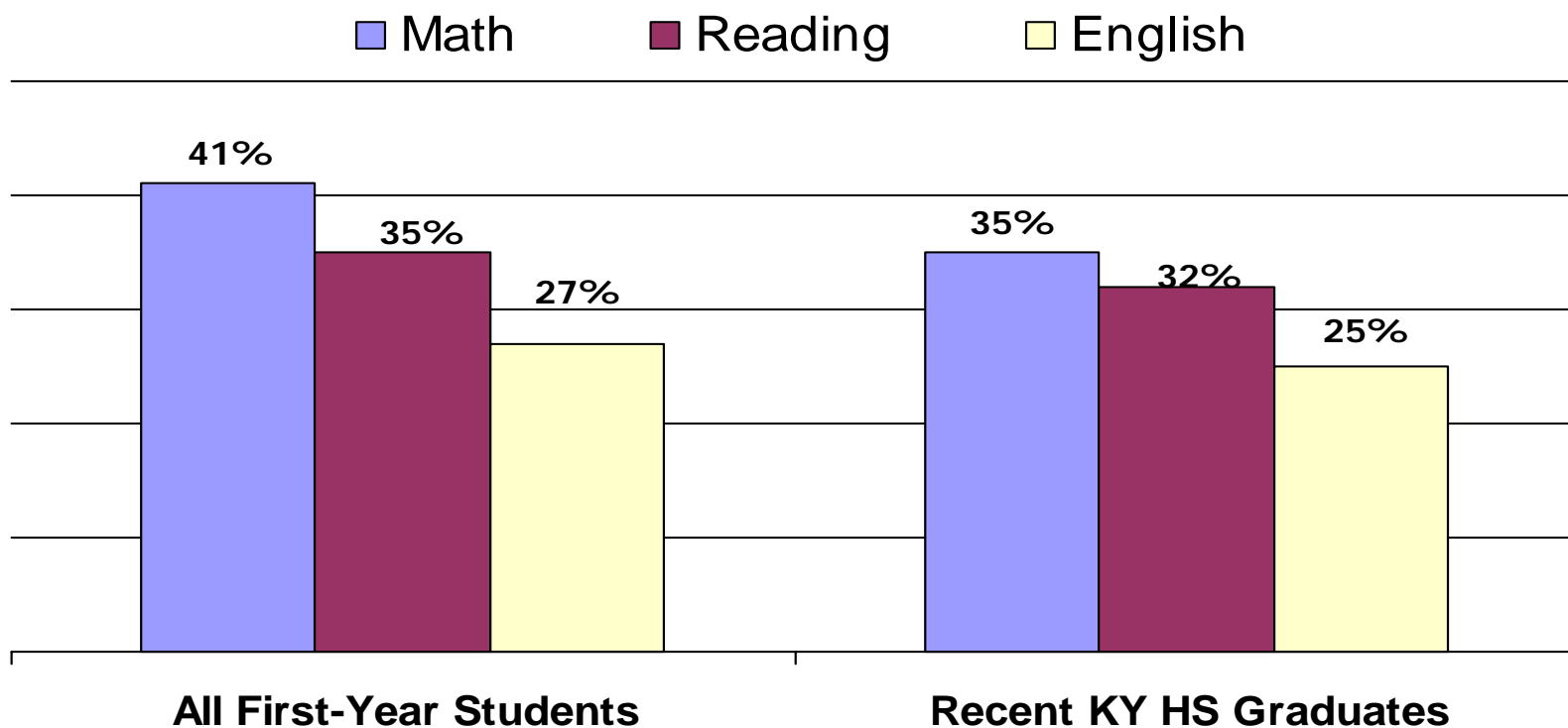
# **Underprepared Students in Kentucky: A First Look at the 2001 Mandatory Placement Policy**

- Study examined 26,646 freshmen who entered Kentucky's public two and four-year institutions in fall 2002
- Progress tracked through second year of college
- 63% of these students were recent graduates of Kentucky high schools (others were adult and out-of-state students)

# Underprepared Students in Kentucky

- Answered the following questions
  - What proportion of entering students do not meet the systemwide standard of preparation?
  - How underprepared are the entering first-year students?
  - What are the characteristics of underprepared students?
  - Are underprepared students being in remedial courses?
  - Are underprepared students retained?

# Underprepared Students Entering Kentucky's Public Colleges, 2002

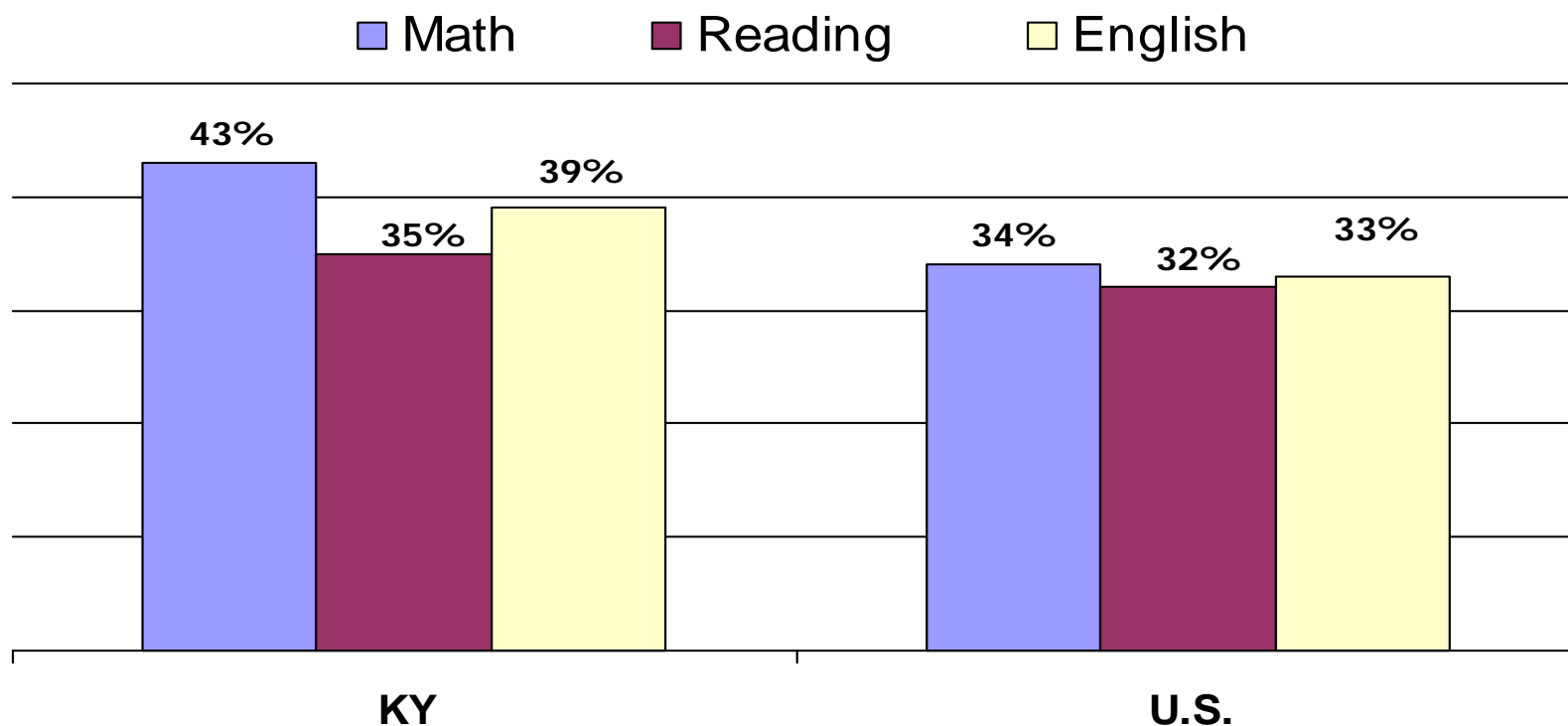


Note: Underprepared students scored 17 or below on a ACT subject exam

Source: CPE Comprehensive Database



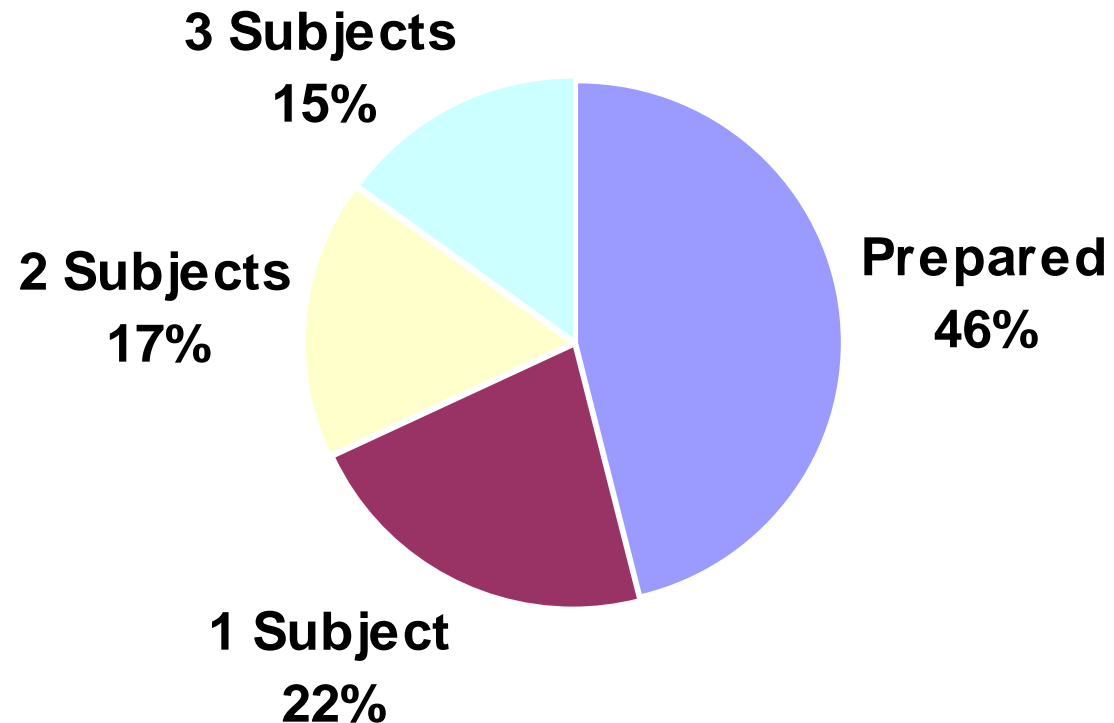
# KY and U.S. High School Graduate ACT Test Scores, 2002



Note: Underprepared students scored 17 or below on a ACT subject exam

Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

# Depth of Remedial Needs, 2002

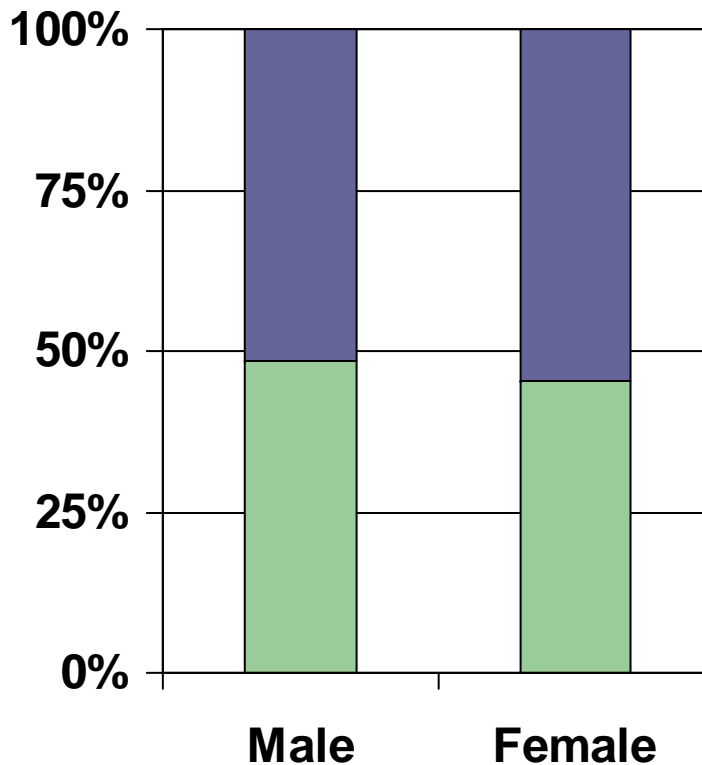


Note: Underprepared students scored 17 or below on a ACT subject exam. Includes entire college entry cohort, not only recent graduates of KY high schools.

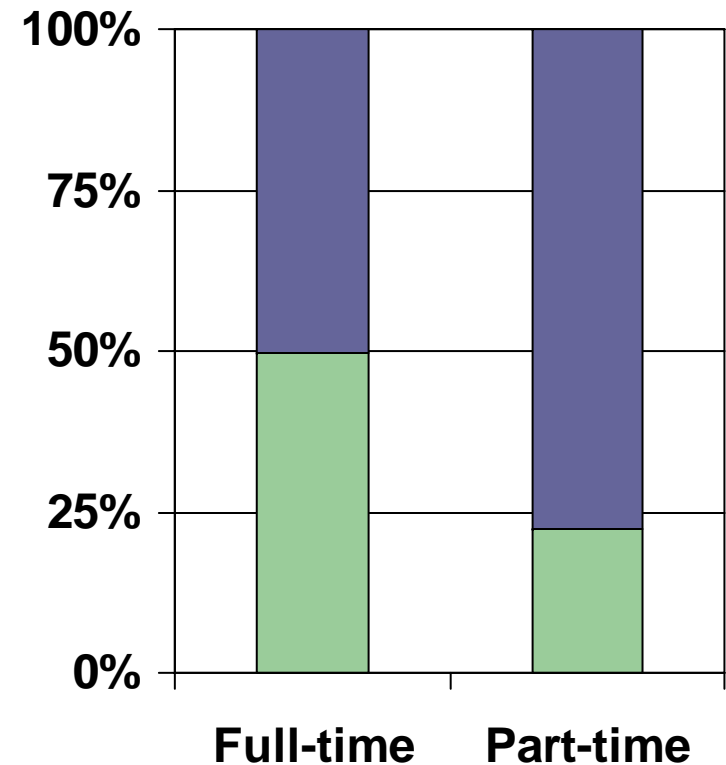
Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

# Preparation Level by First-Year Student Demographics, 2002

■ Prepared ■ Underprepared

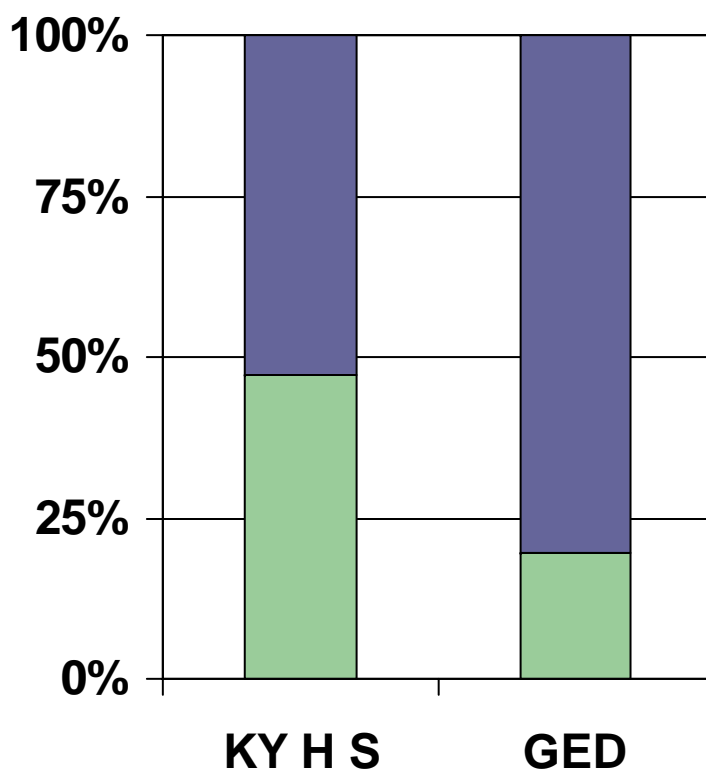


■ Prepared ■ Underprepared

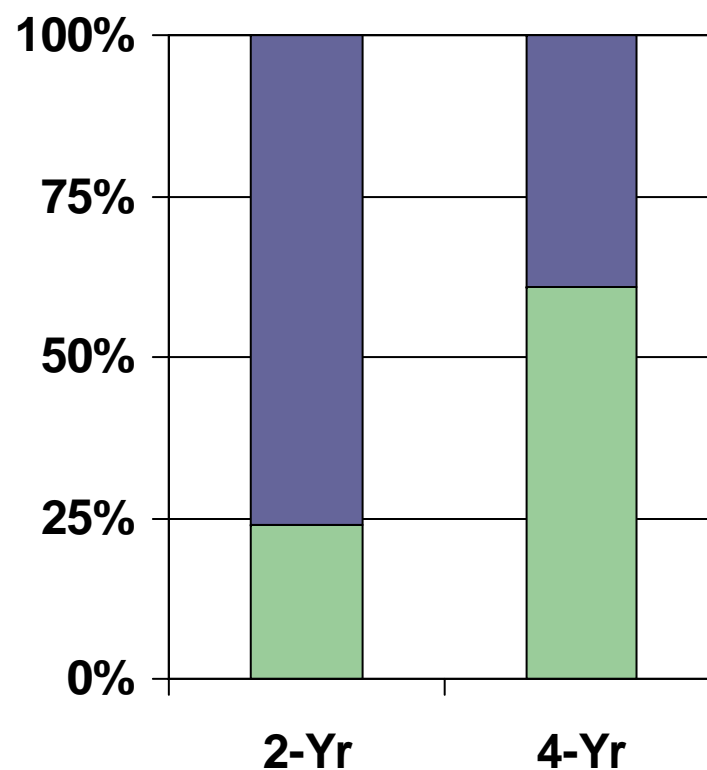


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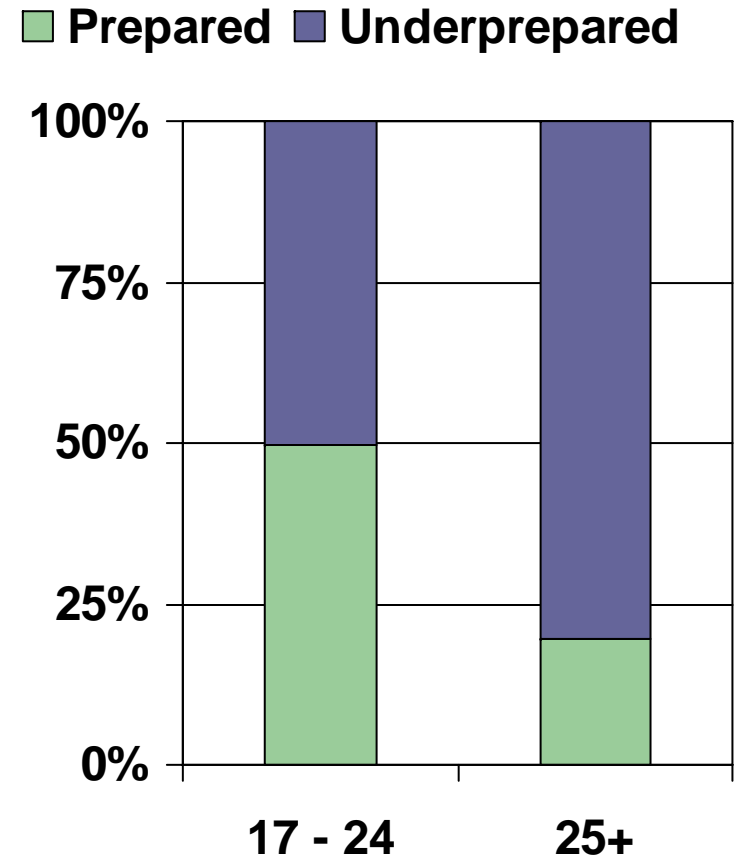
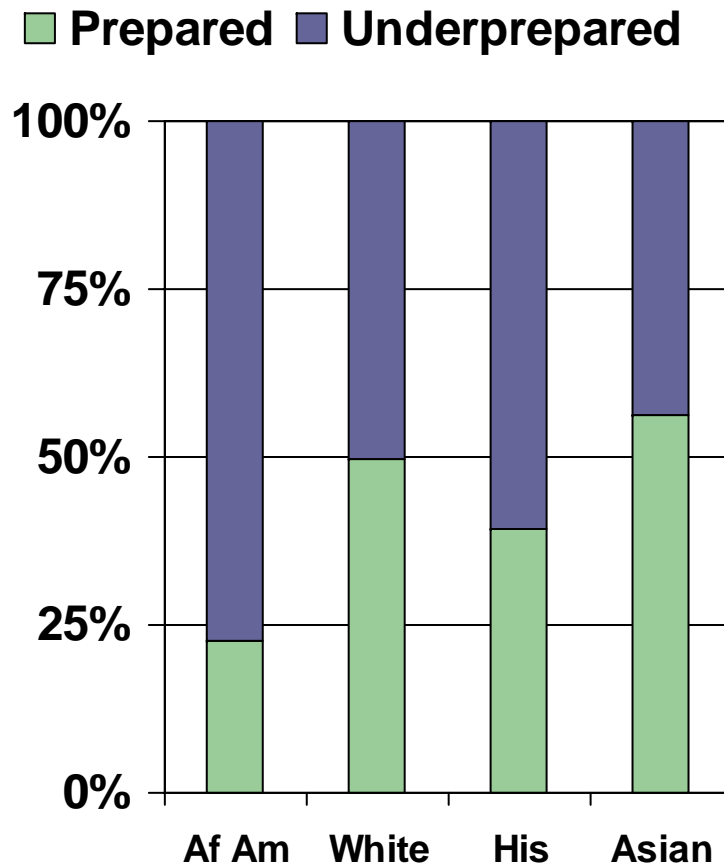
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# Preparation Level by First-Year Student Demographics, 2002

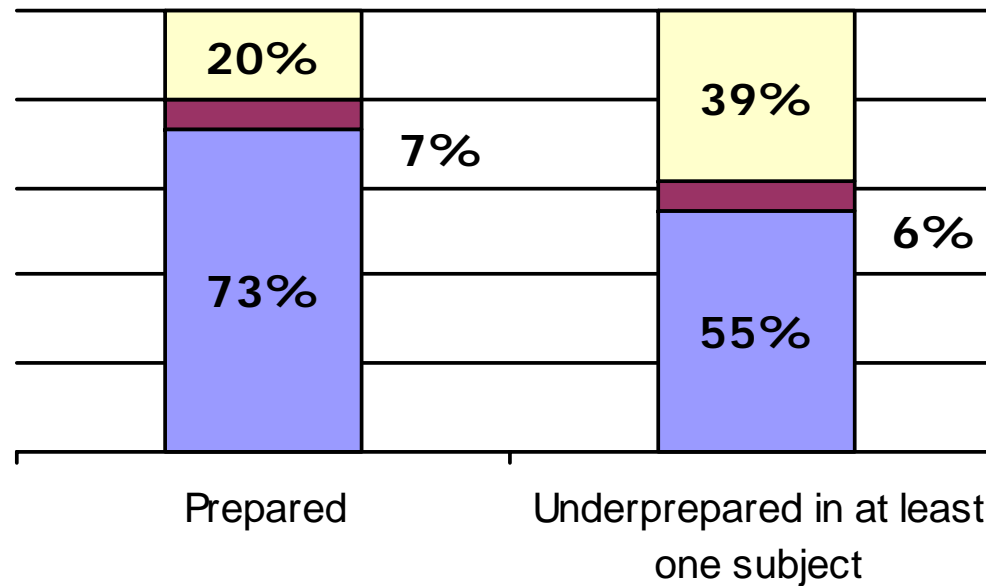


# Student Retention by Preparation Level, 2002 to 2003

■ Dropped out

■ Retained elsewhere in system

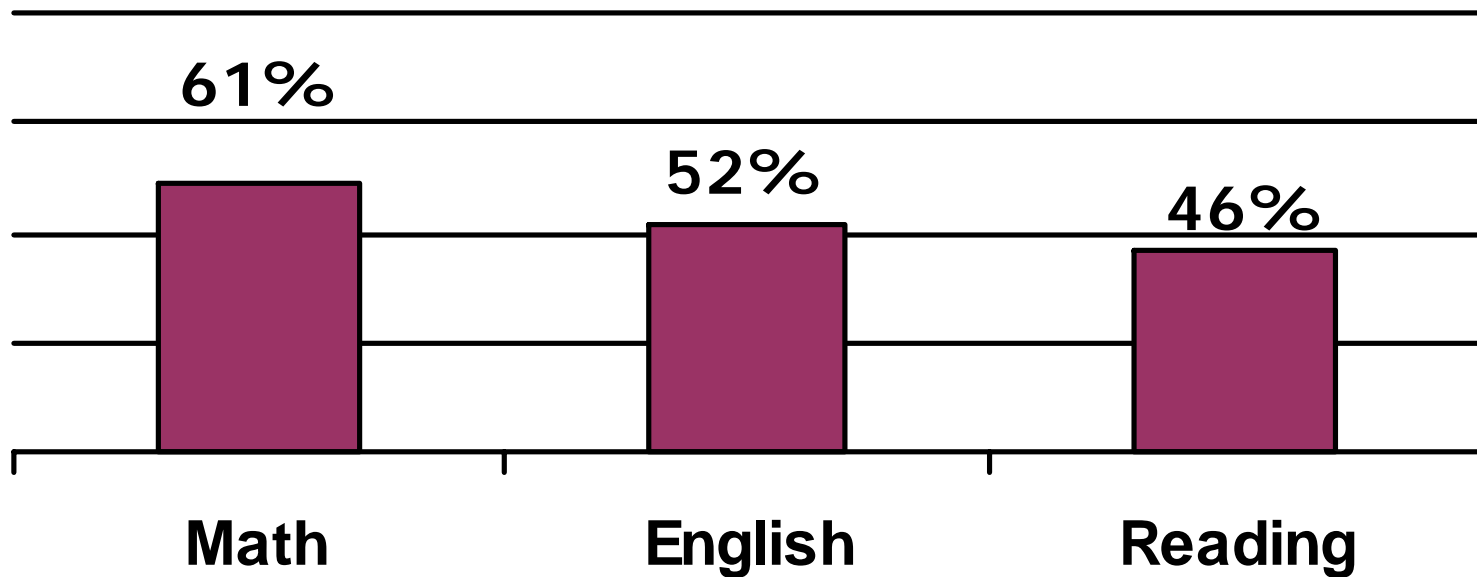
■ Retained at starting institution



Note: Underprepared students scored 17 or below on a ACT subject exam. Includes entire college entry cohort, not only recent graduates of KY high schools.

Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

# Remediation of Underprepared Students by Subject



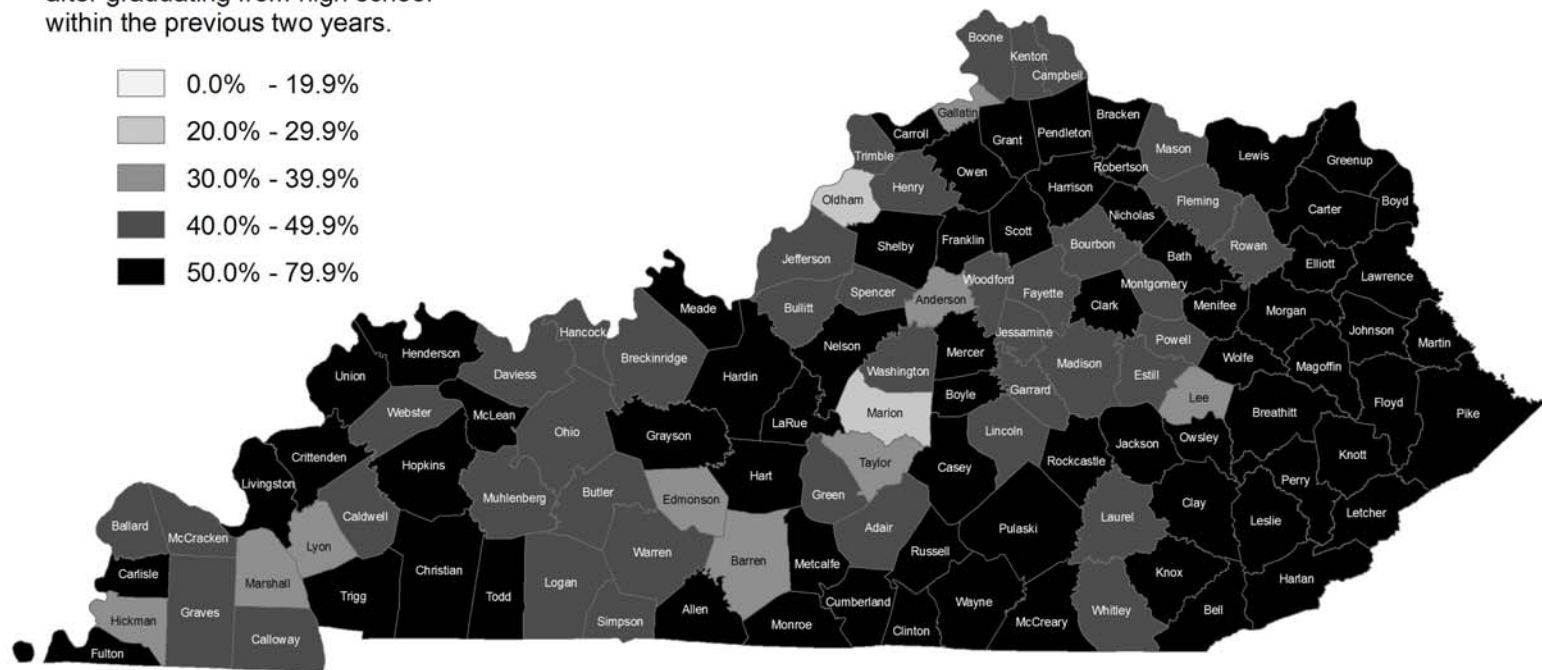
Note: Remediation rates are underestimated due to incomplete data.

Note: Underprepared students scored 17 or below on a ACT subject exam. Includes entire college entry cohort, not only recent graduates of KY high schools.

Source: CPE Comprehensive Database

## Figure 1: Percentage of Recent HS Graduates Entering College Underprepared in One or More Subjects, 2002

Students scoring less than 18 on one or more of the ACT exams in mathematics, English, and reading as a percentage of all students taking such exams and entering public postsecondary institutions in the Fall of 2002 after graduating from high school within the previous two years.



Source: Council on Postsecondary Education Comprehensive Database



# Strategic Initiatives

- Helping to prepare recent high school graduates
  - Single, rigorous high school curriculum
  - SB 130 implementation to support college preparation assessments beginning in the eighth grade
  - Gear-Up program for low-income students
  - Go Higher college information website
  - Improve teacher preparation and training
  - High School Feedback Report
  - College Access Campaign

# Strategic Initiatives

- Question 1 Key Indicator
  - Percent of incoming Kentucky high school graduates who are underprepared for college
- Statewide Conference on Developmental Education
- Continued priority for Quality and Accountability Policy Group
- Release of 2004 - 2006 first-year freshmen cohort report in October
- Implementation of Task Force recommendations

# Impact on 2020 Attainment Progress

- Kentucky's adult students are critical
- Reducing achievement gaps
- Continue to improve the pipeline of recent high school graduates
- Improving college retention and graduation rates



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